

Remarks

The Office Action mailed August 7, 2002 has been carefully reviewed and the foregoing amendment has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 13-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 8 and 11 are rejected. Claim 22 is newly added.

A fee calculation sheet for the newly added claim along with authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of the calculated fee are submitted herewith.

The rejection of Claims 1, 5, 8 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kropf (U.S. Patent No. 5,174,618) is respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of Claim 2, which was indicated in the Office Action as allowable. Claim 1 is therefore submitted to be patentable over Kropf.

Claims 5 and 8 depend from Claim 1, and when the recitations of Claims 5 and 8 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Claims 5 and 8 are likewise submitted to be patentable over Kropf.

Claim 11 has been cancelled.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1, 5, 8 and 11 be withdrawn.

The objection to Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12-15 as being dependant upon rejected base claims is respectfully traversed.

Claim 2 has been cancelled, and the recitations of Claim 2 now appear in amended Claim 1. As Claim 2 was indicated as allowable in the Office Action, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claims 3, 4, 6, 9, and 10 depend from Claim 1, which for the reasons set forth above is submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claim 7 has been amended to depend from Claim 20, which was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Claim 7 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claim 12 has been cancelled.

Claim 13 has been amended to depend from Claim 21, which was indicated as allowable in the Office Action. Claim 13 is therefore submitted to be patentable over the cited art.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from Claim 13, which for the reasons set forth above is submitted to be patentable over the art. When the recitations of Claims 14 and 15 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 13, Applicants submit that Claims 14 and 15 are likewise patentable over the cited art.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claims 2-4, 6, 7, 9, 10 and 12-15 be withdrawn.

With respect to newly added Claim 22, Applicants respectfully submit that the cited art does not describe or suggest the latch assembly recited in Claim 22.

Kropf describes an appliance door latch assembly including a bolt frame (96) including a vertical guide collar (120) which slidably receives a vertical guide channel (122) of an opening handle (124). It is evident that the handle (124) is not rotatable relative to the bolt frame (96) but rather that linear reciprocating movement of channel (122) within guide collar (120) is utilized to operate the latch assembly. See Kropf col. 5, lines 7-19; col. 5, line 61 to col. 6, line 32; col. 6, line 48 to col. 7, line 39. See also Kropf Figures 2b, 3, and 4.

Claim 22 recites a latch assembly for coupling a door to an apparatus, said latch assembly comprising "a keeper comprising a biasing member and a head portion extending from said

biasing member, said head portion comprising a catch and a lock release projection, said biasing member configured to bias said catch for engagement with the door,” “a rotatably mounted handle comprising a contact surface in slidable contact with said lock release projection, said handle selectively rotatable to uncouple the door from the apparatus,” and “a handle retainer coupling said handle to the door.”

As Kropf neither describes nor suggests a rotatably mounted handle as recited in the latch assembly of Claim 22, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 22 is patentable over Kropf.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Prada et al. :
Serial No.: 09/682,225 : Art Unit: 3677
Filed: August 9, 2001 : Examiner: Lugo, Carlos
For: METHODS AND APPARATUS :
FOR SECURING A :
DISHWASHER DOOR :

SUBMISSION OF MARKED UP CLAIMS

Hon. Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

In furtherance of the response to the Office Action dated August 7, 2002 submitted herewith, Applicants hereby submit marked up versions of the amendments therein:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (twice amended) A latch assembly for coupling a door to an apparatus, said latch assembly comprising:

a keeper comprising a biasing member and a head portion extending from said biasing member, said head portion comprising a catch and a lock release projection, said biasing member configured to bias said catch for engagement with the door;

a handle comprising a contact surface in slidable contact with said lock release projection, said handle selectively operable to uncouple the door from the apparatus; [and]

a handle retainer coupling said handle to the door; and

a handle hinge pin, said handle hinge pin coupling said handle to said handle retainer.

7. (once amended)) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim [6] 20 wherein said switch actuator is configured to actuate a switch from an open state to a closed state.

9. (twice amended) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim [2] 1 wherein said handle is rotatably coupled to the door with said hinge pin.

10. (once amended) A latch assembly in accordance with Claim [2] 1 wherein said handle further comprises at least one pivot arm comprising at least one opening therein mating sized to receive said handle hinge pin.

13. (once amended) A method in accordance with Claim [12] 21 wherein providing a handle further comprises providing a handle including at least one substantially circular projection that is configured to frictionally retain the handle.

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